Augmentation of the Resources of States

2688. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY

SHRI C.P THIRUNAVUKKARASU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to reduce States' share in Central taxes from 29 per cent;

(b) if so, whether it would affect States in their developmental works; and

(c) what steps Government would take to augment the resources of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) States' share in Central taxes is determined on the recommendations of the Finance Commission. The Eleventh Finance Commission has submitted its Interim Report on 15th Jaunary, 2000. The Interim Report alongwith Explanatory Memorandum as to the action taken on the recommendations made by the Eleventh Finance Commission in its Interim Report was laid on the table of the House on 16th March, 2000. Final report is due by 30th June, 2000. The alternative Scheme of Devolution recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission has been accepted by the Government, with some modifications, and the necessary enabling Constitutional (Eighty-Ninth) Amendment Bill 2000 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 9th March, 2000. The Government will take decisions in this regard based on the above.

Shifting of SBI Branch from Nathnagar to Bajoria Gati

2689. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether he has received a representation from the account holders of State Bank of India, Bhagalpur, Bihar for stopping the porposed shifting of the Nathnagar Branch to Bajoria Gati ?

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to stop the proposed shift ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Bank of India has reported that their Patna local head office have taken the decision to shift their loss making Nathnagar branch to its new location in the same vicinity on commercial consideration.

Meeting of Hindi Salahakar Samiti in the Ministry of Finance

2690. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) since when the meetings of Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Departments under the Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs/ Revenue/Banking and Expenditure are not be held; and

(b) when its meetings are likely to be held ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) : There are two Hindi Salahakar Samities in the Ministry of Finance. The meeting of Hindi Salahakar Samiti (Department of Revenue and Expenditure) was held on 5th April, 2000. The Hindi Salahakar Samiti (Department of Economic Affairs) has not been re-constituted due to non-availability of names of the Members of Parliament from the Praliamentary Affairs Ministry. The next dates of the meetings of Hindi Salahakar Samiti cannot be confirmed at this stage.

Change in the Printing Technology of Currency Notes

2691. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the flooding of fake currency notes in the country, Government have considered the issue of bringing a change in the printing technology of the Indian-currency notes to check the spread of counterfeit currency notes in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Considering the large number of complaints of circulation of fake currency notes in the country, Government has appointed a high level committee of experts in the note printing field for examining the whole gamut of the issues pertaining to the security dimension of Indian currency notes. The Committee's Report is expected shortly.